

HOUSE RESOLUTION 303
By Naifeh

A RESOLUTION to honor Representative Bill Purcell for his
outstanding service to the General Assembly, as
House Majority Leader.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this Body should recognize those colleagues who during their tenure in the General Assembly have performed their elected duties with the utmost acumen, probity and integrity, and whose professionalism and diligence should be emulated by all who seek public office; and

WHEREAS, Representative Bill Purcell has been a significant presence on Capitol Hill for ten years and five terms as a member of the House of Representatives; his illustrious legislative career will come to an end at the adjournment sine die of the 1996 session of the Ninety-Ninth General Assembly as he quits this body to pursue other interests; and

WHEREAS, for the past six years, Representative Purcell has served with distinction as the House Majority Leader, and he has turned in his usual brilliant performance as the chief spokesman for his party on the House floor; and

WHEREAS, he has become renowned as the legislature's best orator and he is one of our most resourceful strategists; and

WHEREAS, Representative Purcell has also distinguished himself as an outspoken advocate for children's health, education and welfare issues, and he has worked assiduously and with purpose to ensure that children's programs are adequately funded in the state budget; and

WHEREAS, his unswerving commitment to the safety and welfare of our children has perhaps been most clearly evidenced by means of his excellent service as Chair of the Select Joint Committee on Children and Youth; and

WHEREAS, he has been a perceptive and eager participant in the legislative process as a member of the committees on General Welfare, Finance Ways and Means and Judiciary and Ethics; he also serves as Chair of the House Rules Committee and previously served as chair of the Open Records study committee; and

WHEREAS, serving the good people of House District 52 in East Nashville with courageous conviction, Representative Purcell has been the distinguished recipient of numerous awards for his proficient legislative service, even a brief list of which is inspiring; he was a 1988 Toll Fellow of the Council of State Governments; was selected 1989 Legislator of the Year by the District Attorney General's Conference and 1991 Legislator of the Year by the Tennessee Conservation League; and received The Bridge Award from the Vanderbilt Institute for Public Policy Studies in 1991, 1993 Legislative Award from the Tennessee School Boards Association and the TACC True Friend to Children Award in 1993; and received the 1994 Legislator of the Year Award for the Tennessee Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics; and

WHEREAS, during his distinguished tenure in the General Assembly, Bill Purcell has sponsored and supported a host of legislation to enhance the quality of life for all Tennesseans; and

WHEREAS, Representative Purcell's great affinity and talent for public service is further demonstrated by his adroit service as chair of the NCSL Assembly on State Issues for 1994-95 and chair of the Policy Makers Program Advisory Board of the Danforth Foundation; and

WHEREAS, he has faithfully and expertly advanced the agenda of his party and contributed significantly to its causes as a member of the Davidson County Democratic Executive Committee; chair of the Democratic Legislative Leaders Association and chairman of the Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee; and

WHEREAS, a concerned and compassionate citizen, Representative Purcell has shouldered the mantle of civic leadership in numerous capacities, including meritorious service as chair of the Board of Trustees of East End United Methodist Church; a member of the board of directors of the Tennessee State Museum and the Tennessee Historical Society; and vice-chair of Board of Friends of Spencer Youth Center; and vice-chair of Department of Correction Volunteer Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments and accolades aside, his most cherished asset is the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Deborah L. Miller, and their daughter, Jesse; and

WHEREAS, the 52nd House District has been well represented by this prominent legislator as he served in every capacity with intelligence, industry and humanity; and

WHEREAS, Representative Purcell will be long remembered as an advocate and crusader for good, responsive government and the concerns of his constituents; and

WHEREAS, for ten years, Representative Bill Purcell has been a staple figure on Capitol Hill; he is a gentleman whose talent and energy will seldom be equaled and, without question, he will be greatly missed; and

WHEREAS, it is now highly appropriate that the friends and colleagues of this outstanding public servant should honor him and recognize his numerous accomplishments and contributions to our great state; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Representative Bill Purcell for his outstanding service as House Majority Leader, and we honor him for his distinguished career as a member of this General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we extend to Representative Purcell our best wishes for every continued success and happiness in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.